

Conservation Canada

Summer 1978



Cette revue paraît en anglais et en français. Pour la version française, voir au verso de la publication.

"In a world of constant change, Parks Canada exists to preserve the natural heritage of this country, to help Canadians everywhere to enjoy the vast beauty of our land and the great achievements of its founders."



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Volume 4, No. 2, 1978

Published by Parks Canada under authority
of Hon. J. Hugh Faulkner,
Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs
Ottawa, 1978
QS-7067-020-BB-A1

Editor: James D. Georgiles
Production: Joffre Feren
Design: Eiko Emori
Photo Credits: *Canada's Wild Rivers*,
1, Priidu Juurand; 2, Bill Pisco; 4, Roger
Beardmore; *Bellevue House*, 1 to 3, Shawn
MacKenzie; *The True North*, 1, Tom
Kovacs; 2, Peter Poole; 3, Roger Beardmore,
4, Philip J. Holman; 5, Roger Beardmore.

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Indian and Northern Affairs, Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0H4.

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Contract No. 09KT. A0747-8-1204

An aerial photograph showing a river meandering through a vast, dark green forest. The river is light-colored, creating a stark contrast with the surrounding trees. Several small, irregular ponds or oxbow lakes are scattered throughout the landscape, some connected to the river and others isolated. The overall scene is one of a remote, untouched wilderness.

Canada's Wild Rivers

by Caroline Woodward

Canada is a land of wild rivers. In the early days these rivers served as trading and transportation routes for native and European alike. Today, these same wild rivers are being rediscovered by growing numbers of canoeists and wilderness lovers.

Parks Canada has surveyed wild rivers across the country so that modern explorers can be made aware of the rewards and hazards of wilderness water voyages. Rivers untamed by dams and unsullied by industrial pollution were chosen for their historical significance and scenic beauty.

The survey crews monitored points of entry and exit, water level variations, river flow, portages and good campsites. They also documented sites of historic interest and the flora and fauna along the routes.

It is dangerous to assume that Canada's wild rivers are suitable for every adventure-seeking soul. Even

the expertise and endurance of the most experienced river canoeist will be pushed to the limit on these powerful rivers.

The availability of detailed maps, freeze-dried food and lightweight camping gear assists today's "voyageurs" as does the durability of aluminum or fibre glass canoes.

A particularly enticing wild river region to those interested in history is the Yukon Territory. Many vestiges of the mid-nineteenth century fur trade and the heady gold rush days still remain. Those interested in nature will thrill to the abundance of wildlife in the region.

Wildlife in the distinct habitats of the Yukon includes wolf, black and grizzly bear, moose, deer, caribou, Dall sheep, and smaller animals. River deltas are nesting areas for bald eagles, Canada geese, hawks, several species of ducks and ever-present bank swallows. Arctic grayling, whitefish and northern pike abound in most rivers, and king and dog salmon also run in the Nisutlin and Macmillan rivers.

Ancient glacial migrations and constant erosion by rivers and streams account for a landscape characterized by narrow V-shaped valleys, towering bluffs and fjord-like lakes. Mountain

way, Alaska. The boat trip along the Inside Passage and the 176 km train ride on the White Pass-Yukon Railway from Skagway to Whitehorse is an incredible scenic experience.

Arrangements can be made in Whitehorse for parties to be taken in and out of wild river areas by float plane. Four-wheel drive vehicles are recommended for some of the access roads to rivers. Although the Alaska Highway is well-maintained, unpredictable rainfall and snow-melt in the mountainous regions can change road conditions quite drastically.

The most favourable months to plan canoe trips are June, July and August. Be prepared for night-time temperatures below 0° Celsius in the latter half of August. Travelling in the Yukon during the early summer months also means

groups rise 3 650 m to 6 050 m in stark relief above the Yukon Plateau. The northernmost limits of the Yukon border the Arctic Ocean where the barrenlands extend to the gravel beaches.

There is a continual transition from coniferous to boreal forest, interspersed with stretches of grassland, alpine tundra and finally the Arctic barrenlands.

The floral emblem of the Yukon, the purple fireweed, is much in evidence around burned-off areas and abandoned sites. Blueberries, raspberries, Labrador tea and wild rose-hips are late summer delights that can be savoured as well as visually enjoyed.

Visitors may travel to the Yukon by car on the Alaska Highway, fly to Whitehorse or take the three-day boat voyage from Vancouver, B.C. to Skagway

being ready to do battle with mosquitoes of legendary size and viciousness.

The Yukon River system has 3 520 km of water and is readily accessible at several places including Whitehorse, Carmacks, Marsh Lake and the abandoned town-site of Minto.

The navigational hazards of the Yukon River are not so formidable as to deter the ever-increasing number of travellers from canoeing, boating or floating down this historic transportation route. Roads and airplanes are now the major travelways of the Yukon, so happily for the adventurous with an eye for the unspoiled, the river banks are mainly uninhabited and undisturbed.

Relics of a colourful past are constant reminders of the challenge that faced the men and women who sought fabulous wealth or the solace of self-sufficiency in the North.

Along the Scenic Thirty Mile Section there is silent evidence of the days when thousands of people swarmed up the river in search of gold. An old steamer, the CASCA I, hulks on the shore near the site of an unused telegraph station. The rusted wire strands of the old telegraph line can be glimpsed occasionally from the river. The station is now protected as an historic site by the Territorial Government. Further along the river, abandoned native settlements, solitary cabins and old wood camps, the refuelling stations for the stern-wheeled paddle steamers, can be seen.

The scenery changes as constantly as the colour of the river water. The towering bluffs give way to rolling hills and isolated basalt rock cliffs. Opportunities for hiking are many and the panoramic views of the valleys and distant mountain ranges are well worth the time and energy spent on side-trips.

Fort Selkirk, established by Robert Campbell of the Hudson Bay Company

- 1 The Little Bell River in Northern Yukon
- 2 Aerial view of the Grand Canyon of the Stikine River in northern B.C.
- 3 Rafting on the Yukon River
- 4 Lining on the Mountain River, N.W.T.

- 1 Méandres de la rivière Little Bell dans le nord du Yukon
- 2 Le grand canyon de la rivière Stikine dans le nord de la Colombie-Britannique
- 3 En radeau sur le fleuve Yukon
- 4 Halage dans des rapids de la rivière Mountain dans les Territoires du Nord-Ouest

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in 1848, is now abandoned except for an Indian caretaker. Originally a trading post and mission, it once boasted a Taylor and Drury Department Store and one-room school.

A highlight of any trip down the Yukon River is a visit to Dawson City, strategically located where the gold-bearing Klondike River joins the Yukon. The restoration of many of its buildings has recaptured the colourful personality of Canada's oldest city north of the sixtieth parallel. Robert Service's hill-top cabin is open for visitors intrigued by the Yukon magic that inspired the famous northern poet. Today, Dawson City is part of the Klondike Gold Rush International Historic Park, a co-operative undertaking between Canada and the United States.

The Yukon River, being one of the least difficult rivers in the Territory to canoe, invites family groups. White-water enthusiasts who want to try the challenge of canoeing in remote areas and for whom the rigour of lining and hauling canoes shin-deep in icy currents is merely invigorating should try the Big Salmon, Ross or Macmillan rivers.

Canoeing the Yukon rivers, and retra-

cing the routes of the early explorers and goldseekers will delight those who crave the adventure and solitude of almost untouched wilderness.

The wild rivers of the Yukon present a challenge to the canoeist, but a greater challenge lies in preserving and protecting them so that future generations too can discover the true essence of the Canadian North.

If wild rivers interest you, look for Parks Canada's booklets on "Wild Rivers", a series of practical guides designed to assist modern Canadian voyageurs to enjoy a valuable part of their natural heritage. The following titles are now available:

Yukon Territory, No. R62-82/1976-3

Newfoundland and Labrador, No. R62-82/1977-6

James Bay and Hudson Bay, No. R62-82/1977-5

Alberta, No. R62-82/1974-2

Saskatchewan, No. R62-82/1974-1

Quebec North Shore, No. R62-82/1976-4

The booklets, which cost \$1.50 each can be ordered from: Printing and Publishing, Supply and Services Canada, Ottawa K1A 0S9, or from your local bookseller.

The Grounds of John A.'s Bellevue House

by John J. Stewart*

During the period from 1830 to 1845 Kingston flourished both as a garrison town and as the capital of Upper and Lower Canada. It attracted a large contingent of builders, merchants, bankers, and craftsmen. A great deal of money was invested in business and in real estate. One person to capitalize and initially to profit from the influx of government officials was Charles Hales, a merchant and grocer. With his newly made wealth he built Bellevue Terrace, a picturesque villa in the Italianate Revival Style. ↗

By 1844 the capital had switched to Montreal and the government officials moved out leaving Charles Hales with considerable loss in his extensive real estate investments. Bellevue was rented and Hales and his family moved back over his grocery store. In 1848 John A. Macdonald, then Kingston's M.L.A. and later the first Prime Minister of Canada, briefly took up residence at Bellevue Terrace with his ailing wife and infant son.

John A. Macdonald in a letter to his sister, Margaret Greene, described his new home and its owner. *"I have taken a cottage or rather, I beg its pardon a Villa near Harpers Cottage to which we remove Isa, the baby and I on Saturday. It is a large roomy house where I hope to see you and Jane next spring. The house was built for a retired grocer who was resolved to have an 'Eyetalian Willar' and who has built the most fantastic concern imaginable. From the previous laudable tho' rather prosaic pursuits (sic) of the worthy* ↘



landlord, the house is variously known in Kingston as Tea Caddy Castle, Molasses Hall, and Muscovado Cottage."

In a later letter he refers to the house affectionately as Pekoe Pagoda for as he wrote, his wife "begins to feel the advantages of the complete quiet and seclusion of the house . . . which is completely surrounded with trees, and has a fresh breeze ever blowing on it from Lake Ontario".

As Sir John A. Macdonald's letters imply the "Eyetalian Willar" was initially looked upon as somewhat of an oddity

reflecting the occupation of its owner. His descriptive names conjure up images of far off places and trade goods from the orient such as tea, spices and molasses. With its canopied balconies, trelliswork, fringed barge board towers and picturesque grounds Bellevue must have appeared as an exotic addition attracting considerable attention. Without its bric-a-brac, Bellevue would lose the lightheartedness and playfulness which had made it unique in Kingston.

Bellevue Terrace was always intended as a gentleman's villa. It had the relaxed setting of a retreat and enough property for a kitchen garden to supply the needs of the family. It was never intended as a farm. A description of the

property in 1851 in a newspaper describes it as "delightful, combining the attractions of the country and the advantages of the city. Altogether this is a desirable residence for a family in easy circumstances".

It is most probable that the basic structure of the house was inspired from pattern books. These books were plentiful and popular in both the U.S.A. and Canada where there were more craftsmen builders than architects. The playful details of fringe canopied balconies, fretwork and finial could have been chosen at random and added to the structure almost as icing to a cake.

Bellevue House was acquired by Parks Canada in 1965 in order to restore

*Mr. Stewart is a period landscape architect for the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs.

it to the 1848 period when Sir John A. Macdonald and his family lived there. A great deal of careful research went into the restoration of the house under the direction of R. R. Dixon. It was not until ten years later that a program was undertaken by the author to restore the grounds.

As with the house, pattern books were probably used originally to lay out the grounds. Andrew Jackson Downing, who was the leading exponent of the picturesque style in America, published books on both architecture and gardens. In his book *Landscape Gardens* published in 1841 he illustrated houses containing many of the details seen at Bellevue. Books such as Downing's may have been used to design the grounds which would explain why no documentation has been found attributing the design to one architect.

It is not known when the grounds were laid out. Mrs. Macdonald who was bedridden during most of their stay at Bellevue writes of the pleasure she received from the scent of flowers drifting in her bedroom window. This suggests there were gardens by 1848. The restored grounds closely resemble the layout as illustrated on a map dated 1869. As with the house, the grounds were restored in the Italianate Revival Style.

The style is well suited to the sloping site. The grounds are terraced on two levels with formally laid-out alleys and side-paths surfaced in gravel. It is probably as a result of the terraces that the name Bellevue Terrace was derived. Exotic as well as mature native trees and shrubs are dotted throughout the lawns greatly reducing the sense of formality which the path system would suggest. A gingerbread gazebo tucked off in a corner and overshadowed by a gigantic oak offers a quiet retreat. A large circular garden geometrically laid out in a rich floral display is the focal point in this area.

The original carriage drive sweeps up past the house in a semi-circle. This year fruit trees will be planted on the lawn next to the drive recreating the orchard which once grew here. A beautiful picket fence and gates were reconstructed along the front property enclosing this area.

The vegetable garden is located on the lower terrace. A close-board fence surrounds the area. Just outside the fence is the pump. Historically this was a communal well shared by Bellevue

- 1 A Victorian-style carpet garden
- 2 Tobacco grows in the vegetable garden
- 3 A carriage drive leads to the house

and two other properties. By midsummer the cold frame used in the early starting of vegetable seeds for transplanting into the garden is partially hidden by pumpkins and a flower with the romantic name of love-lies-bleeding. The long red feather plumes of this plant give it its name.

The formality of the upper garden is continued in the vegetable garden. It is broken up into four quadrants each planted with various vegetables, kitchen herbs and small fruits. The garden was not only practical but was also a part of the landscape design. It was intended to be viewed from above either the upper terrace or the house. Rows of lush vegetation in varying shades of green through gray, ripe tomatoes, the feathery foliage of rows of carrots contrasting the broad tobacco leaves, as well as several species of pumpkins and melons growing amongst the corn, lettuce and wild chicory, suggest ordered chaos as they spill over on to the path system.

The garden is intended to represent the sort of garden a well-to-do family of the 1850's would keep. The garden had to produce not only food but also herbs, some cosmetics, insect repellents and air fresheners. By this time in a centre like Kingston very few medicinal plants would have been grown as these could be purchased locally.

In restoring the grounds, an effort has been made to grow only plant varieties available in Kingston in the 1850s. A major difficulty we encountered at Bellevue was finding appropriate plant material. We knew what plants were grown at that time, but the original strains were often no longer available since they had been interbred. Where it was impossible to obtain seeds of old varieties, modern strains were used.

At Bellevue the grounds not only provide a delightful setting for the house but also in themselves create a direct experience for the visitor illustrating the manner in which the persons of the past responded to their natural settings. The floral garden at Bellevue tells as much about John A. Macdonald's preferences and the attitudes of well-to-do people in Upper Canada as does the Italianate Revival Style of Bellevue House itself.

Landscapes and gardens with their plantings and landscape structures can

- 1 Tapisserie ou jardin, Londres à l'époque n'aurait pas mieux fait
- 2 et le tabac croît toujours dans le potager
- 3 le carrosse allait jusqu'à la galerie

be important in interpreting an important part of our heritage. At Bellevue the interpretive maintenance program established by the site superintendent, Ed Friel, adds a great deal to a visit to the site. Chances are as you walk up the drive you will see the gardener out scything the lawn or weeding the vegetable garden. Early maintenance tools as well as traditional techniques of gardening are employed as a part of day to day maintenance. The present gardener, Russ Ferguson, is not only a skilled gardener, but most important he is sensitive to the history of the property. Dressed in period costume, he is more curator of the landscape than someone expected just to cut the lawn.

In its setting, Bellevue has a definite feeling of the picturesque with its lofty location overlooking Lake Ontario, terraced grounds, many specimen trees and shrubs and elegant gardens. The house, set at an angle to the street to take best advantage of the view, forms the hub of a small estate. A part of Bellevue's charm is its romantic, almost mysterious atmosphere which has been preserved even today though it is surrounded by the 20th century.



The True North: Who Stands on Guard?

by Jim Shearon*

"We need a balance in the North. The land is being developed faster than we in the South realize."

With these words, Hon. Hugh Faulkner, the Minister responsible for Parks Canada, explained his decision to begin

*Chief, Parks Canada Information Division.

public consultation on six potential Arctic Wilderness areas.

The proposed areas include Bathurst Inlet, Wager Bay, Ellesmere Island, Banks Island and the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula in the Northwest Territories as well as a large area of the Northern Yukon.

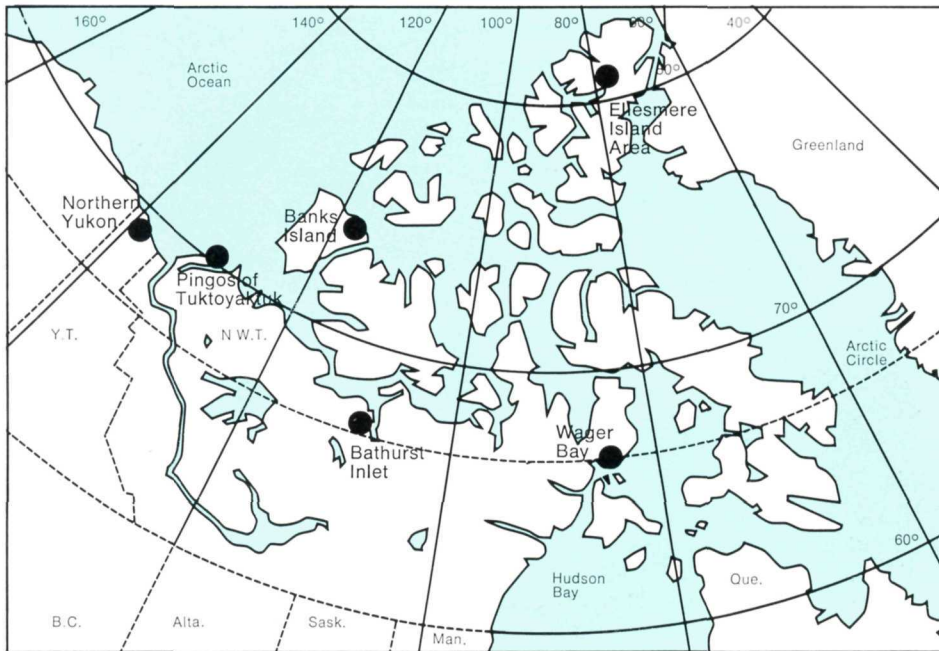
"All are spectacular wilderness areas, and would be preserved in that state", said Mr. Faulkner.

"We now have before us in the North a task of historic significance. We have the opportunity – indeed the obligation – to protect important resources in the Yukon and Northwest Territories in a manner that has been lost forever in the rest of North America. It is an opportunity that must not be missed", Mr. Faulkner insisted.

The announcement that public meetings would be held marked the start of a Northern conservation strategy that recognizes the land claims of Northern people as well as the special characteristics of the Northern environment, where fragile natural resources are vulnerable to economic development programs.

- 1 Ibyuk pingo near Tuktoyaktuk
- 2 Nelson Head on southern Banks Island
- 3 Purple saxifrage blooms near Lake Hazen, Ellesmere Island
- 4 Muskoxen at Eureka, N.W.T.
- 5 Yelverton Pass, northern Ellesmere Island

- 1 Le pingo Ibyuk près de Tuktoyaktuk
- 2 On dirait une sculpture, à Nelson Head, au sud de l'île Banks
- 3 Saxifrages à feuilles opposées près du lac Hazen dans l'île Ellesmere
- 4 Bœufs musqués à Eureka dans les Territoires du Nord-Ouest
- 5 Le col Yelverton au nord de l'île Ellesmere



Mr. Faulkner said: "I hope this Northern conservation strategy will include the setting aside of natural reserves for scientific and recreational purposes as well as the protection of critical habitats for fish and wildlife which are essential ingredients of the natural environment for all Canada and are critical for the native people of the North."

During the coming months, Parks Canada officers will hold meetings in communities in the North to provide information to local residents and hear their comments and suggestions on how these wilderness areas can best be protected. Further meetings will take place after local residents have had time to consider the information provided to them and there will also be meetings in other parts of Canada so that all those who are interested in the North, who value a "True North, strong and free", will have an opportunity to express their views.

Persons or organizations who would like to receive or contribute information on any of these Northern Wilderness areas may do so by writing to Hon. Hugh Faulkner, Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, House of Commons, Ottawa, or to the Director of the National Parks Branch, Parks Canada, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H4.

Following is a brief description of the six Arctic wilderness areas proposed by Mr. Faulkner.

Wager Bay

Wager Bay is on the northwest side of Hudson Bay in the Northwest Territories.

The history of the Inuit people of Wager Bay is believed to date back more than 4 000 years.

The area is unusual for its diversity of arctic land and sea mammals. The local caribou herd is frequently seen grazing the hills alongside the bay, and polar bears swim in its waters. The waters of the bay are frequented by the beluga whale and narwhal.

The reversing falls between Wager Bay and Ford Lake is one of only three such phenomena in Canada. The reversing falls and a tidal bore at the mouth of the bay create polynias, areas free from ice year-round.

Banks Island

Banks Island is located 483 km north-east of Inuvik. The proposed wilderness area stands at the northern end of the island and includes a portion of the Thomsen River Basin, the Musk Ox River, and Mercy and Castel Bays. A southern component featuring Nelson Head is being considered.

Archaeological evidence indicates that the island has been intermittently occupied by Inuit for more than 3 000 years. Sir William Edward Parry, in 1820, was the first European to sight and name Banks Island.

Most of the 4 000 to 5 000 muskoxen on the island are concentrated in the lower Thomsen River basin.

The lower stretches of the river are a designated Migratory Bird Sanctuary.

The proposed wilderness area includes three topographical units: a deeply dissected plateau of Devonian age to the east, the Thomsen River Valley lowlands in the centre and to the west a dissected upland of Cretaceous age.

Bathurst Inlet

The proposed wilderness area surrounding Bathurst Inlet in the Northwest Territories, is remarkable for the diverse and luxuriant vegetation which provides habitat for barren-ground caribou, muskox, Arctic fox, Arctic hare and abundant bird-life.

The first European explorers found Bathurst Inlet inhabited by the Copper Eskimos, a loose association of local groups. Two groups known to frequent the inlet in the spring were the Umingmaktormuit, "people of the muskox", and the Kilukuktormuit, "people of Bathurst Inlet". Although there has not been an extensive archaeological study done on the Inlet, many sites and artifacts have been found including stone blinds, tent rings and fishing weirs. Banks Peninsula, for example, has many signs of more permanent human occupancy which can be further studied and may reveal the lifestyles of the original inhabitants.

The inlet is a critical breeding ground for the peregrine falcon, a rare and endangered species.

The Bathurst Caribou herd of about 200 000 animals is the largest herd in Canada.

Bathurst Inlet also offers spectacular scenery. Wilberforce Falls is thought to be the highest falls in the world north of the Arctic Circle. Other major waterfalls and islands with impressive scenic features are located in the area.

Northern Yukon Territory

The proposed wilderness area in the northern Yukon Territory encompasses the entire Firth River and its watershed, the Babbage River, the Old Crow Flats, the British Mountains, the Yukon Coast, Herschel Island and a marine component in the Beaufort Sea.

In 1976, an archaeological dig unearthed what is believed to be one of the oldest human remains ever discovered in the western hemisphere, and studies

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indicate that man was in this area more than 30 000 years ago.

The Old Crow Flats, a level basin rimmed by mountains and dotted by hundreds of lakes, is an important migration route for the Porcupine herd of barren-ground caribou. Each spring, between 70 000 and 140 000 caribou migrate from their wintering range in the Yukon interior to calving areas in the Northern Yukon and Alaska.

Herschel Island, the Yukon's only island, is thought to have been created by the force of glacial ice, which gouged marine sediments from the sea.

Protected by a surrounding rim of mountains from the ice which changed the topography of much of North America during the Ice Ages, the Northern Yukon is perhaps the only area in Canada where arctic tundra, alpine tundra and boreal forest can be observed in their natural condition in the same location.

Ellesmere Island

The proposed wilderness park which comprises northern Ellesmere Island and a portion of Axel Heiberg Island, includes Cape Columbia (83° 07'N), Canada's most northerly point of land.

The area is characterized by three major physiographic units – the Grant Land Mountains, the Lake Hazen Plateau on Ellesmere Island and Mokka Fjord Uplands on Axel Heiberg Island.

Paleo-Eskimos once followed migrat-

ing herds of muskoxen from the Canadian Arctic to Greenland. Excavations in Peary Land in Greenland have unearthed a number of Eskimo sites which are more than 4 000 years old.

During the late 19th century, three exploratory expeditions travelled through the area. Fort Conger, on the northeast coast of Ellesmere Island, a site of historical interest, has been included in the proposed wilderness park.

Several hundred glaciers are located within the proposed area. Ice caps covering the mountains in northern Ellesmere Island may have once covered the entire island.

Despite the severe environment, there are sheltered pockets where vegetation flourishes and animals thrive. Arctic hare thrive in large numbers both on the Ellesmere and Axel Heiberg Islands. Muskoxen, Peary caribou, polar wolves and Arctic fox can also be found with about 30 species of birds.

Lake Hazen is the world's largest lake north of the Arctic Circle.

Pingos of Tuktoyaktuk

The proposed pingo national landmark area is located 2 200 km northwest of Edmonton, Alberta and 6 km south-southwest of the village of Tuktoyaktuk in the Northwest Territories.

Pingos, low hills with massive ice

cores, protrude from the rolling, lake-dotted tundra of the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula. Pingos form in lake beds in areas of permafrost and grow to maturity over several thousands of years. They eventually decay when pingo summits are ruptured and their ice core melts due to exposure to the sun.

Some pingos are dome shaped, others are flat topped or elongated. Some resemble volcanoes, complete with craters and water lakes. There are more than 1 000 in the Canadian North, almost entirely in the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula.



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